Faunitaxys

Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique morphologique et moléculaire

Volume 13
Numéro 20

Avril 2025

ISSN (Print) : 2269 - 6016
ISSN (Online) : 2970 - 4960
Dépôt légal : Avril 2025

Faunitaxys

Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique morphologique et moléculaire

ZooBank : https://zoobank.org/79A36B2E-F645-4F9A-AE2B-ED32CE6771CC

Directeur de la publication, rédacteur, conception graphique et PAO:
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Imprimé le 14 04 2025

An unusual new species of *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016 from Cretaceous Burmese amber (Scorpiones: Palaeoeuscorpiidae: Archaeoscorpiopinae)

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Keywords:

scorpion;
Palaeoeuscorpiidae;
Archaeoscorpiopinae;
Burmesescorpiops;
taxonomy;
new species;
description;
Burmese amber;
Myanmar.

Abstract. – In this contribution a third new species of the rare genus *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016 is described. The discovery of this new element belonging to the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003 and to the subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae Lourenço, 2015 brings further elements to support the validity of the genus *Burmesescorpiops*. This generic group remains however, poorly speciose. The remarkable degree of diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests is once again highlighted.

Dan Z., Zawgyi K. & Lourenço W. R., 2025. – An unusual new species of *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016 from Cretaceous Burmese amber (Scorpiones: Palaeoeuscorpiidae: Archaeoscorpiopinae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(20): 1 – 6.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.57800/faunitaxys-13(20)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/E09DB9C0-27BC-497F-8A5C-77F60D3C5FF3

Received: 03/04/2025 – *Revised*: 08/04/2025 – *Accepted*: 09/04/2025

Introduction

As previously discussed in several papers (e. g. Lourenço, 2023; Lourenço & Velten, 2024a, 2025a,b,c), since the ground-breaking description of the first scorpion trapped in Cretaceous Burmese amber by Lourenço (2002), the number of new taxa described from this type of amber knew an extraordinary progress (Lourenço, 2023). Quite distinct scorpion lineages have been defined for Burmite; some proved to be rather common and speciose such as those of the families Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015 and Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Lourenço, 2023; Lourenço & Velten, 2024a,b). Other groups however, remain much more confidential and can even be considered rare. This is the precise case of the elements of the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003, subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae Lourenço, 2015 to which only three genera and five species were described, namely *Archaeoscorpiops cretacicus* Lourenço, 2015, *Archaeoscorpiops grossei* Lourenço, 2023, *Burmesescorpiops groehni* Lourenço, 2016, *Burmesescorpiops velteni* Lourenço, 2024 and *Chaeriloscorpiops bautschi* Lourenço, 2020 (Lourenço, 2015, 2016, 2024; Lourenço & Velten, 2020, 2023). In the present study a new species is described for the genus *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016, adding further compelling evidence to support the validity of the subfamily and genus.

Material and methods

The specimen investigated is preserved in a rather dark piece of reddish to reddish-yellow amber which measures 28.2 x 17.2 x 5.9 mm. The scorpion representing the new species is not complete. The specimen was fragmented at the level between mesosoma and metasoma. Not all structures can be clearly observed due to the presence of some vegetal inclusions and some bubbles. Nevertheless, a good number of characters were finally observed thanks to the use of 3D images. The 3D images were produced by a Micro CT Scanning via a *Bruker SkyScan1173*. The digital volume seen in the images is built from 900 CT bitmaps taken with the following parameters: Camera Pixel Size (um): 50. CameraXYRatio:1. Source Voltage kV: 70. Source Current (ua): 114. The data reconstruction imaging was loaded into ORS Dragonfly for 3D visualization for data analysis. Colour photos of the global specimen were obtained with a Fuji X100V camera, and backlight device of a Ulanzi VIJIM VL196 RGB LED and settings for colour & brightness: 1920 lux@0.3m illuminance. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Line drawings and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 Stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometre, Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974) while cheliceral nomenclature follows Vachon (1963). Other morphological

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terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded when their bothria (areoles) can be observed; nevertheless, some trichobothria can be deduced through the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalp and pectines, the scorpion is most certainly a male and probably represents a juvenile or pre-adult.

Taxonomic treatment

Family **Palaeoeuscorpiidae** Lourenço, 2003

Subfamily **Archaeoscorpiopinae** Lourenço, 2015

Genus ***Burmesescorpiops*** Lourenço, 2016

Burmesescorpiops wunpawng Lourenço, Dan & Zawgyi **sp**. **n**. (Fig. 1-13)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/B23B1C53-BA0F-4EE7-A7EE-67BDE2BEC4B8

Holotype. – A possible juvenile or pre-adult. Sex cannot be clearly determined, however, according to the morphology of pedipalps and pecten it most certainly corresponds to a male. Type locality and horizon: Hukawng Valley, Tanai Region, Kachin State, Myanmar; Lower Cretaceous.

Diagnosis for the new species. – Scorpion with an average to large size; total length can be estimated by extrapolation with previously observed specimens to be around 14 to 15 mm. General coloration reddish to reddish-brown. Carapace moderately elongated with a very strong median concavity; median ocular tubercle largely anterior to the centre of the carapace; two lateral eyes can be observed. Furrows moderately marked. Pectines moderately observable with a possible number of 12-11 teeth. Spiracles small with a round shape. Metasomal segments and telson not observed. The general morphology of the pedipalps is similar to that of extant Scorpiopidae; fixed and movable fingers with 7-8 rows of small rounded granules, with inconspicuous accessory granules. Chelicera poorly observed with a dentition probably similar to that of extant scorpionids (Vachon, 1963). Tarsi of legs with small spines. Trichobothrial pattern similar to type C of Vachon (1974), also defined for the family Euscorpiidae (Vachon, 1980). On the chela hand, trichobothria **Esb**, **Est**, **Dt**, **Et$_4$**, **Eb$_1$**, **Et$_1$** and 7-8 **V** can be observed or suggested. On the chela fixed finger, trichobothria **eb**, **db**, **dsb**, **dt**, **dst**, **est** can equally be observed or suggested. Patella shows **d$_1$** and **d$_2$** on dorsal face; **i** is slightly displaced to the dorsal face; on the ventral face 7 or 8 **V** trichobothria are observed. A number of external trichobothria can also be indirectly suggested on the patella by the presence of transverse hairs; corresponding to the territories **et**, **em**, **est**, **esb** and **eb**. Femur shows trichobothria **d**, **i** and **e**. The presence of a second trichobothrium **e**, previously suggested by Lourenço (2016, 2024) is once again confirmed.

Type locality and horizon. – Tanai Region, Hukawng Valley, Kachin State, Myanmar (Burma), Kachin, Lower Cretaceous.

Etymology. – The specific name is placed in apposition to the generic name and is derived from "Wunpawng," the Kachin term denoting the union of various constituent tribes that comprise the Kachin people, the indigenous inhabitants of the Hukawng Valley.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the Collections of the Kachin Amber Research Institute Office, Sumprabum, Kachin State, Myanmar.

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion presents a coloration that ranges from reddish to reddish-brown. Body, pedipalps and legs of an uniform coloration. The ventral aspect of the specimen seems to be slightly paler.

Morphology. – Carapace without granulations, almost smooth; anterior margin with a very strong median concavity. Carinae absent; furrows moderately marked. Median ocular tubercle largely anterior to the centre of carapace; median eyes moderate in size and separated by less than one ocular diameter. Two lateral eyes can be observed in both sides of the carapace. Sternum pentagonal, higher than large, with a strong concavity at its base. Mesosomal tergites weakly granular, almost smooth with one median carina; VII not observed. Pectines well observable with 12-11 teeth; fulcra absent. Sternites smooth with small rounded-shaped spiracles. Metasomal segments and telson absent; not observed. Cheliceral dentition poorly observed but similar to that of extant scorpionids (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalp femur with 4-5 carinae; patella with dorso-internal, ventro-internal, dorso-external and external carinae; internal face without spinoid granules and with a very minor apophysis. Chela with moderately marked carinae; all faces weakly granular to smooth. Fixed and movable fingers each with 7-8 (8-8) rows of small rounded granules; accessory granules are poorly observable; extremity of fingers with moderate spinoid granules; setation of pedipalps inconspicuous. Trichobothriotaxy recalling type C, as defined by Vachon (1974) of extants Scorpiopidae (see diagnosis).

Morphometric values (mm) of the holotype of *Burmesescorpiops wunpawng* **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length*** can be estimated to be approximately of 14 to 15 mm (including telson).

– ***Carapace***
length 2.67;
anterior width 1.78;
posterior width 2.47.

– ***Mesosoma*** length 4.45.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 2.21, width 0.82;
patella length 1.92, width 0.93;
chela length 4.81, width 1.52.

– ***Movable*** finger length 2.76.

Relationships. – The presence of an accessory external trichobothrium on femur clearly associates the new species to the genus *Burmesescorpiops*. The new species can, however be distinguished from *Burmesescorpiops groehni* Lourenço, 2016 and *Burmesescorpiops velteni* Lourenço, 2024, by a number of features:

(**i**) a carapace not elongated but with a very strong median concavity and moderately marked furrows;
(**ii**) base of the sternum with a marked concavity;
(**iii**) genital operculum plates very elongated laterally;
(**iv**) pectines with 12-11 teeth, versus 13-12 for *B. groehni* and 7-8 for *B. velteni*;
(**v**) spiracles small and round;
(**vi**) fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps with 7-7 (8-8) rows of granules.

Conclusions

As previously stated (Lourenço & Velten, 2023; Lourenço, 2024), each new contribution to the already remarkable list of scorpion taxa found in Burmite, highlights its major significance for paleontological research. The present discovery rather reinforces the validity of the subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae and the genus *Burmesescorpiops* within the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae and confirms once again the very rich diversity present within the Burmese amber fauna, providing invaluable insights into the ancient scorpion fauna of the Cretaceous period.

Acknowledgements

The Kachin Amber Research Institute is most grateful to Advanced Amber Kretaceous Zoologia for their assistance and support with the use of Micro CT technics, which allowed possible the 3D images of the new species, *Burmesescorpiops wunpawng* **sp**. **n**.

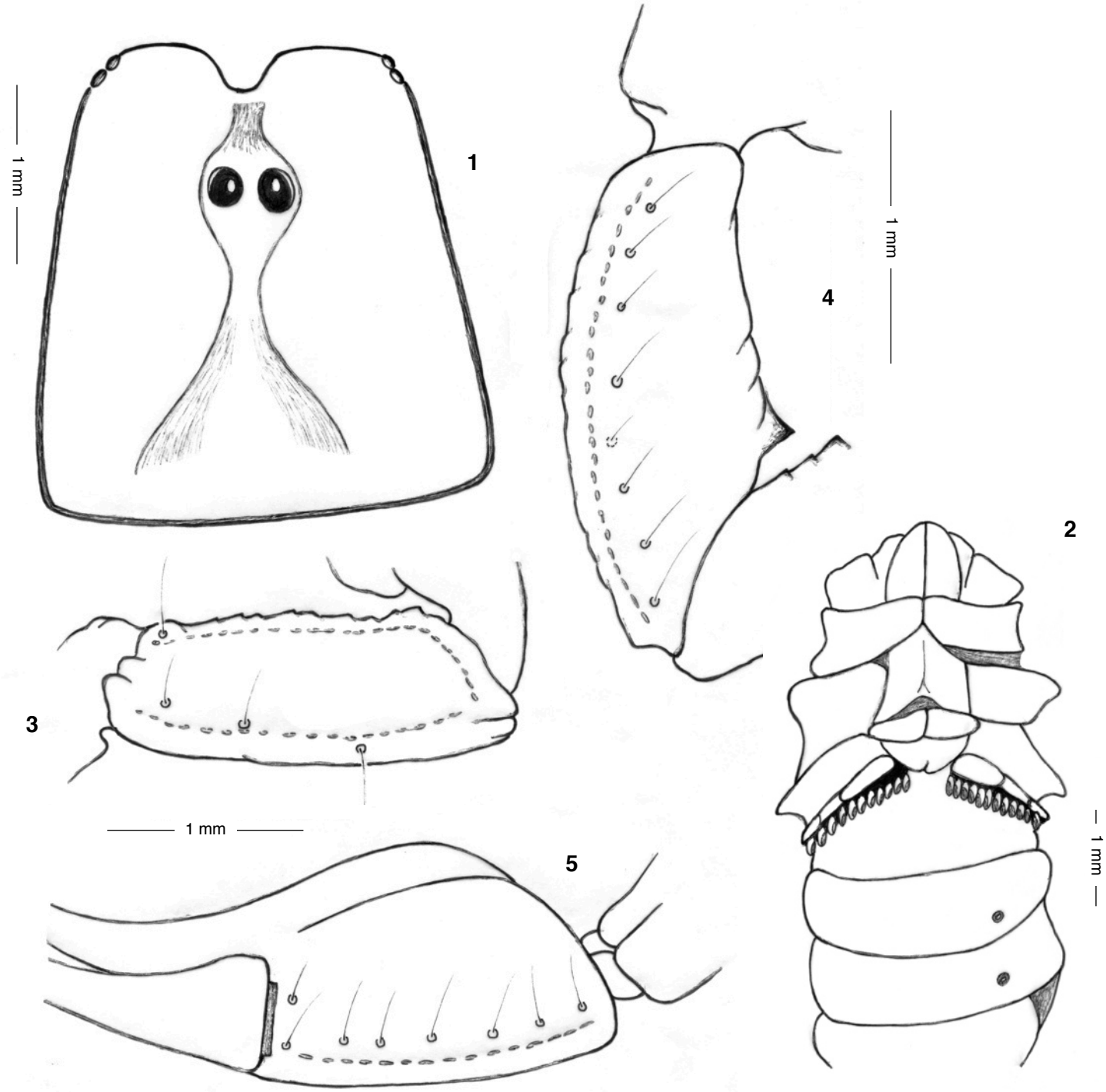

Fig. **1**-**5**. *Burmesescorpiops wunpawng* **sp**. **n**.

1. Carapace, dorsal aspect. **2**. Ventral aspect, showing coxapophysis, sternum, genital operculum pectines and sternites with round spiracles. **3**-**5**. Trichobothrial pattern. **3**. Femur, dorsal aspect. **4**. Patella, ventral aspect. **5**. Chela, ventral aspect.

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Fig. **6**-**7**. *Burmesescorpiops wunpawng* **sp**. **n**. Male holotype. Habitus. **6**. Dorsal aspect. **7**. Ventral aspect.

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Authors contribution *1*

Publisher Correspondence. – WL
Writing the article. – WL
Description. – WL
Article proofreading. – WL
Bibliographic work. – WL
Material study. – WL, ZD & KZ
Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-5), ZD & KZ (Fig. 6-13)

1 **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **ZD** = Zaw Dan – **KZ** = Ko Zawgyi.

Fig. **8**-**13**. *Burmesescorpiops wunpawng* **sp**. **n**.

8. Habitus, dorsal aspect. **9**. Carapace in detail, dorsal aspect. **10**. Habitus, ventral aspect. **11**. Chela, dorsal aspect. **12**. Chela, ventral aspect. **13**. Femur and patella, ventral aspect. (Images produced with the use of Micro CT technics; see material and methods).

Résumé

Dan Z., Zawgyi K. & Lourenço W. R., 2025. – Une nouvelle espèce particulière pour le genre *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016 de l'ambre Crétacé du Myanmar (Scorpiones : Palaeoeuscorpiidae : Archaeoscorpiopinae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(20): 1 – 6.

Dans la présente contribution une troisième nouvelle espèce du rare genre *Burmesescorpiops* Lourenço, 2016 est décrite. La découverte de ce nouvel élément appartenant à la famille des Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003 et à la sous-famille des Archaeoscorpiopinae Lourenço, 2015 apporte de nouveaux éléments confortant la validité du genre *Burmesescorpiops*. Ce groupe générique demeure cependant peu riche en espèces. La remarquable diversité des forêts productrices d'ambre Crétacé du Myanmar est une fois de plus mise en évidence.

Mots-clés. – Scorpion, Palaeoeuscorpiidae, Archaeoscorpiopinae, *Burmesescorpiops*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, description, ambre birman, crétacé, Myanmar.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Burmesescorpiops wunpawng **sp**. **n**. in the stone (piece of amber).

Crédits:

Wilson R. Lourenço : Fig. 1-5.

Zaw Dan & **Ko Zawgyi** : Fig. 6-13 & couverture.

Publié par l'Association Française de Cartographie de la Faune et de la Flore (AFCFF)